

Claims

1. A system for administering a transfer of electronic data to a data storage device, comprising:

10        a first computer;

      a second computer operatively coupled to the first computer through a network;

      the first computer being programmed to receive an electronic message from the second computer and, in response to the message, to remotely administer the transfer of electronic data from the second computer to the data storage device; and

      the first computer being further programmed to transmit an electronic message to indicate

15        that the transfer of electronic data is complete.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the first computer is further programmed to transmit an electronic message to identify a problem in the transfer of electronic data.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the first computer is further programmed to transmit an electronic message to identify a repair that is required to correct the problem.

25        5. The system of claim 3, wherein the first computer is further programmed to remotely repair the problem.

6. The system of claim 3, wherein the first computer is further programmed to transmit an electronic message to notify an administrator local to the second computer to perform the repair.

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7. The system of claim 1, wherein the data storage device includes an automatic transfer library operatively coupled to the first computer.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the data storage device includes an automatic transfer

35        library operatively coupled to the second computer.

5 9. A system for administering a data storage backup process of a computer, the system comprising:

means for remotely coupling to the computer; and

means for sending a signal to indicate that the data storage backup process is complete.

10 10. The system of claim 9, further comprising means for sending a signal to identify a problem in the data storage backup process.

11. The system of claim 10, further comprising means for remotely repairing the problem.

15 12. A method of administering a transfer of electronic data to a data storage device, the method comprising:

coupling a first computer to a second computer through a network;

administering the transfer of electronic data to the data storage device; and

transmitting an electronic message from the first computer to indicate that the transfer of electronic data is complete.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the network includes the Internet.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising transmitting an electronic signal recognizable by the second computer from the first computer to the second computer to operatively couple the first and second computers.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising terminating the transfer of electronic data and decoupling the first and second computers, if the electronic signal is not recognized.

30 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising recording the termination of the transfer of electronic data and the decoupling of the first and second computers.

5 17. The method of claim 12, wherein the data storage device is an automatic transfer library operatively coupled to the second computer.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein the automatic transfer library is operatively coupled to the first computer.

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19. The method of claim 12, further comprising identifying a problem in the transfer of electronic data.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising remotely repairing the problem.

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21. The method of claim 19, further comprising notifying a local administrator to repair the problem.